Eulogising Zheng He's Dangerous Voyages

ZHENG HE (1371–1435)

Zheng He was a famous envoy and a grand eunuch of the Ming Dynasty. He accomplished a series of enormous naval expeditions with powerful fleets, consisting of as many as 63 great "treasure ships" and 28,000 officers and men. He visited more than 30 countries in Asia and Africa. His expeditions constituted the greatest event of the early Ming period.

Zheng He was born in Yunnan province in the south-western corner of China. His father, a Moslem, was called Hajji, indicating that he had performed a pilgrimage to Mecca, the holiest mosque of the Islamic world. Although Zheng He was brought up in the Islamic faith, he became a eunuch in his youth. He showed signs of remarkable patience and unusual ability. He proved himself a great courtier, a most capable diplomat, an able organiser, a dauntless commander and a bold strategist. As a sea-adventurer, the Chinese have not produced another like him. His name still lives on in various parts of Asia and Africa.

In memory of this outstanding adventurer of imperial China, an orchestral work named Zheng He's Expedition, composed and conducted by Kwok Dick-yeung, will be presented by the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre today and tomorrow. There are four movements in this symphony — Sailing Across the Sea; The Exotic Land; Sea Battle; and In Praise of His Name.

China has produced a wide variety of traditional music. As a famous and erudite composer who has achieved great success in promoting national music, conductor Kwok has taken his creative inspiration from authentic accounts of Zheng He. He has employed the sound of the orchestra to depict the heroic age of Zheng He — an era full of material prosperity and cultural achievements in the history of Chinese overseas exploration.

Kwok is skilled in applying layers of texture, contrasts of colour, changes of dynamics and structures of musical form to eulogise the heroic voyages of Zheng He leading large fleets through the turbulent "Western Ocean." The style of the symphony is magnificent and imposing, bright and subtle, entirely different from the so-called Oriental music composed by some Western musicians in an exotic style.

The composer incorporates a new artistic concept into the chorus of the fourth movement to achieve a vivid depiction of Zheng He's great achievements, which enabled the Chinese to maintain their political and commercial ascendancy in the Indian Ocean. It is truly a work created with the musician's heart; in this movement he develops the theme thoroughly, so that the symphony becomes more emotional and colourful.

The chorus will require more than 150 singers. Both words and music are full of power and grandeur, adding splendour to the solemn march. The musician brings the national symphony to a state of perfection, and it will surely leave a deep impression on the audience. In all sincerity, we wish Kwok Dick-yeung and the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra every success in their performance.

— from The Hong Kong Standard, 7 June 1991

一曲郑和远航的颂歌

邱克 博士

郑和（1371—1435），中国明代著名的太监及杰出的使者，率领拥有 63 艘“宝船”，28000 名官兵的庞大船队，成功地进行了七次远洋航海，足迹遍及亚、非 30 多个国家。郑和下西洋之举，在明代初期产生了空前的轰动。

郑和祖籍中国云南省。他的父亲是一位穆斯林，获“哈只”称号——即曾赴伊斯兰世界最神圣的麦加朝觐的荣誉称号。郑和虽生长于穆斯林家庭，青年时却入宫成为太监。然而他表现出非凡的耐性与才干，不愧为一代杰出的朝臣、精明干练的外交家与组织者，智勇双全的指挥官与战略家。作为航海探险家，中国历史上再无出其右者，其名至今仍传颂于亚、非各地。

为纪念这位明代杰出的探险家，郭迪扬先生（Kwok Dick-yeung）创作并指挥的管弦乐《郑和下西洋》，将于 6 月 7 日至 8 日在香港文化中心音乐厅与观众见面。全曲共分四个乐章：(一)远涉重洋，(二)异国他乡，(三)海战，(四)赞颂。

中国素有丰富多样的传统音乐传统。郭迪扬先生博学多才，多年来致力于弘扬民族音乐，成绩斐然，此次更从有关郑和的信史中获得创作灵感。他运用管弦乐描绘了郑和光辉的一生，再现了中国海外探险史上那段物质繁荣、文化昌盛的岁月。

郭先生擅长营造音乐结构的层次感，讲究音色对比、力度变化与整体结构的安排。他以独特的创作风格，歌颂郑和率领庞大船队穿越波涛汹涌的“西洋”的壮阔航程。全曲风格雄浑磅礴，节奏明快而细腻，一改以往西方作曲家笔下那种猎奇式的“东方情调”。

为了栩栩如生地再现郑和的丰功伟绩，作者在第四乐章的合唱部分突出了一个新的主题——郑和时代中国在印度洋所保持的政治、经济优势，这正是作者的心声所在。在这一乐章中，主题得到了充分展开，情感与色彩也随之达到高潮。合唱队多达 150 余人，歌词与音乐同样气势雄壮，为庄严的进行曲增添了和谐的色彩。可以说，作者将这部民族交响乐完美无瑕地奉献给了观众，其感染力必将在听众心中留下深远的回响。我们衷心祝愿郭迪扬先生及香港中乐团演出圆满成功。

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郑和研究学刊
Journal of The Study of Zheng He

民族交响曲 郑和下西洋

香港首演特辑

Special Issue for the Opening Performance of National Symphony "Zheng He's Expedition" held in Hong Kong

南京郑和研究会
NANJING ZHENGHE STUDY ASSOCIATION

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成”，第四乐章“英名传颂”。 前三个乐章已经演出过，第四乐章则是全世界首演，如前所说，除了交响化的中乐乐团之外，第四乐章还加入合唱团，这次首演的合唱团是本港的长风合唱团及学生合唱团。

第一乐章“航海”，是用奏鸣曲式写成的。开始的序奏即引出雄伟的郑和主题：3|6|2 3 5#4 3 3| 呈示部的主题是“航海”的主题，这是从郑和的主题发展而成的，成为全部交响曲的主线，用於表现二百艘船队和三万舟师浩浩荡荡地在大海中航行。

第二乐章“异国风情”是表达郑和所访向之亚、非两洲川多个国家的风土人情。因为地方大多、太大，乐曲中只集中地选取了泰国、锡兰（即斯里兰卡）、马来西亚、印尼和印度的音乐材料来发展乐曲。由於各地音乐风格情调不同，复杂多变，所以作曲家采用比较自由的通旋曲式。等如一幅桷各异訾其趣的图画，给人以各种不同的色彩感受。

第三乐章“海战”，是个激烈的战争场面。它主要是描写郑和所率领的船队在大海航程中如何消灭海盗，开拓通坦的海上丝绸之路的情景。它并且显示郑和不止在外交方面 有材干，在军事方面，也是富於才华的。这个乐章在节奏上采用京剧的垛板，表示战斗的激烈。最后在隆隆的炮声结束后，重现“航海”的主题片段，表示海战已取得胜利，船队继续航行。

第四乐章“英名传颂”，是一首加上合唱的终曲，带有总结的性质，也是全首交响曲的高潮。通过这首一百多人的大合唱和乐队，赞扬这个伟大的航海家、外交家和军事家郑和的伟大事绩。

合唱的歌词也是郭迪扬所写。语言洗练，意境深远。

参加合唱的是有悠久历史，也有高度的音乐水平的两个本港合唱团——长风合唱团及学生合唱团。由於这部交响乐是写给职业的香港中乐团演奏的，技术水平要求很高；对於参加乐曲中合唱的合唱单位，要求也极度严格。幸而长风在艺术指导丘晓秋及驻团指挥苏明村的教导下，合唱团员很快便赶上了。笔者第一次去听他们排练的时候，他们对於那“全垒”的半音和又高又长的高音还觉得有困难，但第二次去听时，时隔三周，他们已经“征服了惊涛骇浪”，达到了作曲家对乐曲的要求了。而学士也像长风一样，平时水平相当，碰到艰巨的任务，经过一番努力之后，也能克服过来，胜任愉快!

这次中乐团的音乐会，前半场还有卢伟良的管子独奏及丘晓秋的女高音独唱。卢是中乐团的乐师，大家亦已熟悉，这里不谈。要谈的是丘晓秋女士。丘女士声音优美，技巧全面。可是近年来已淡出台前，专心培育后进。这次复出，是由於郭指挥的邀请而盛情难却。其实也可以说是她的“告别演出”哩。

（原载香港《华侨日报》1991.6.3.）

Eulogising Zheng's dangerouus Voyages

ZHENG HE（1371—1435）：

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Although Zheng He was brought up in the Islamic faith, he became an eunuch during the war in his 20s.

He showed signs of remarkable patience and unusual ability.

He proved himself a great courtier, a most capable diplomat, an able organiser, a dauntless commander and a bold strategist.

As a sea-adventurer, the Chinese have not produced another like him. His name still likes on in various parts of Asia and Africa.

In memory of this outstanding adventurer of imperial China, an orchestral work named Zheng He's Expedition, composed and conducted by Kwok Dick-yeung, will be presented by the Hongkong Chinese Orchestra at the Hongkong Cultural Centre today and tomorrow.

There are four movements in this symphony—Sailing Across the Sea; The Exotic Land; Sea Battle; and In Praise of His Name.

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As a famous and erudite composer who has achieved great success in promoting national music, conductor Kwok has taken his creative inspiration from authentic accounts of Zheng He.

He has employed the sound of the orchestra to depict the heroic age of Zheng He—an era full of material prosperity and cultural achievements in the history of Chinese overseas exploration.

Kwok is skilled in applying the layers of texture, the contrast of colours, the change of dynamics and the structure of musical forms to eulogise the heroic voyages of Zheng He leading large fleets through the turbulent 'Western Ocean'.

The style of the symphony is so magnificent and imposing, bright and subtle, that it is entirely different from the socalled Oriental music composed by some Western musicians in an exotic style.

The composer incorporates a new artistic concept into a chorus in the fourth movement to achieve a vivid description of the great achievements by Zheng He, which enabled the Chinese to maintain their political and commercial control in the Indian Ocean.

It is really created with the musician's heart.

In this movement, he developed the theme thoroughly, so that the symphony is more emotional and colourful.

The choruses will require more than 150 people. The words and music are also full of power and grandeur, adding splendour to the solemn marching progression.

The musician brings the national symphony to a state of perfection. It will exert a deep impression on the audience.

In all sincerity, we wish Kwok Dick-yeung and the Hongkong Chiese Orochestra success in their fine performance.

——from "Hong Kong Standard" (7/6/1991)

一曲郑和远航的颂歌

邱 克 博士

郑和(1371—1435),中国明代著名的太监及杰出的使者,率领拥有63艘宝船和28000名官员的庞大的船队成功地进行了七次航海远征。他的足迹遍及亚洲、非洲的30多个国家。郑和的西洋之行在明代初期产生了空前的轰动。

郑和祖籍中国云南省。他的父亲是个穆斯林,获哈只称号——曾赴伊斯兰世界最神圣的麦加朝觐真寺朝圣的穆斯林朝觐者的荣誉称号。尽管郑和生活在穆斯林的熏陶下,20岁进宫成了一名太监。然而,他表现出非凡的耐性和才干。他不愧为一名伟大的朝臣,最精明能干的外交家和组织者,智勇双全的指挥官、战略家。他是15世纪中国前所未有的航海探险家,他的名字被载入亚非的史册。

为纪念中国明代这一伟大的探险家,郭迪扬先生(Kwok Dick-yeung)创作兼指挥 的管弦乐《郑和下西洋》将于6月7日——8日在香港文化中心的音乐厅于观众见面。这部交响乐分为4个乐章:(1)远涉重洋,(2)异国他乡,(3)海战,(5)赞颂。

中国产生过许许多多传统的音乐作品。郭迪扬先生是一位博学多知的作曲家。为弘扬中国传统音乐做出了很大成绩,他从有关郑和的真实记载中找到了自己的创作灵感。郭迪扬先生运用管弦乐器描绘了郑和光辉一生,表现了中国海外探险史上那物质文化繁荣昌盛的一幕。

郭迪扬先生善于创制音乐作品结构的层次性,音色的鲜明对比,力度的强弱变化以及乐曲的整体结构。他以自己独特的创作风格歌颂郑和率领庞大的船队驶远涉浩瀚的"西洋"的辉煌航行。交响乐的风格雄壮、气势磅礴、节奏明快而微妙,一改以往由西方作曲家创作的所谓东方音乐的异国风格。

为了获得栩栩如生地再现郑和丰功伟绩的艺术效果,作者在乐曲第四乐章的合唱部分突出了一个新的主题,即郑和时代中国在印度洋保持政治、经济优势。这的确是作者的心声。出在第四乐章中,作者充分发展了主题,使其情感和情调达到高潮。合唱人数达150人之多。歌词与音乐威武雄壮,为庄重的进行曲各声部的和谐增添了色彩。可以说作者将这部民族交响乐完美无瑕的奉献给观众,它势必在观众中产生深远的影响。

我们真诚祝愿郭迪扬先生以及他的管弦乐团以他们精湛的表演获得成功。

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